Role of India in Asian and Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

*276. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main aims, objectives and activities of Asian and Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP) set up during 1985 by UNESCO;

(b) where are its Headquarters; and

(c) what role is being played by India in this organisation and its links with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The main aims|objectives and activities of the Asian and Pacific information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP) set up during 1985 by UNESCO are:

I. *Aims & objectives*

1. To promote exchange of information and resource sharing services among the member countries, in the field of Medicinal & Aromotic Plants.

2. Provide linkages|services to other regional and international networks in the field.

3. Assist member countries establish specialised information management systems.

4. Ensure proper dissemination & usage of information.

II. *Activities*:

1. Maintain bibliographic data-bases on medicinal and aromatic plants and provide, on and as per request, information in the field.

2. Serve as a referral centre for research institutes, researchers, information centres, libraries etc. in the field.

3. Maintain data-base packages on specific topics for target users.

4. Development data-base for various users, viz. planners, scientists, potential entre-preneurs etc.

5. Provide facilities for online access to commercial data-base to users.

(b) The headquarters of APINMAP is at Bangkok, Thailand.

(c) India is a member of APINMAP, which is a voluntary co-operative programme for information networking in the field, among the countries of Asian and Pacific regions. Each member country functions through a *National Node*, which in the case of India is the Publication and Information Directorate (PID) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi. Role of PID and nodes in the other 13 member countries of the network is to assist each other to improve their capabilities to collect, process, disseminate and use research information and data on medicinal and aromatic plants from within the country and from network centre.

Money spent to keep Delhi and Bombay Pollution-Free

*277. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more funds are being spent by Central Pollution Control Board to keep Delhi and Bombay pollution-free, as compared to other cities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof separately during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board has an overall coordinating role. It also functions as the State Pollution Control Board